

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT  
CLEAN VERSION OF EACH REPLACEMENT PARAGRAPH**

*Page 1, paragraph starting at line 5:*

**CLAIM OF PRIORITY**

This application claims priority from U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/267,868 entitled "METHOD TO DYNAMICALLY ASSIGN A HOME AGENT IN A RADIUS BASED SYSTEM" filed on behalf of Chowdhury, et al., on February 9, 2001 (Attorney Docket No. 14213RRUS01P), U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/273,864 entitled "METHOD TO DYNAMICALLY ASSIGN A HOME AGENT IN A RADIUS BASED SYSTEM" filed on behalf of Chowdhury, et al., on March 7, 2001 (Attorney Docket No. 14213RRUS02P), and U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/297,024 entitled "METHOD TO DYNAMICALLY ASSIGN A HOME AGENT IN A RADIUS BASED SYSTEM" filed on behalf of Chowdhury, et al., on June 8, 2001 (Attorney Docket No. 14213RRUS03P).

*Page 16, paragraph starting at line 29:*

Initially, the HAAA 120 and the home agent 122 perform the "HA 'Available' Processing" procedures 810, for which the "HA 'Available' Processing" procedure 810 performed by the home agent 122 is discussed below with reference to FIGURE 9. Briefly, the HAAA 120 and the home agent 122 perform the processing described above to assign a home agent 122. The home agent 122 monitors the activities being performed by the home agent 122 and, upon a determination that the home agent is unable to service additional MSs, transmits to the HAAA 120 a RADIUS ACCESS REQUEST message 812 having an AVAILABILITY attribute. The AVAILABILITY attribute is added to indicate the availability of an HA to the RADIUS server, and preferably comprises a vendor-value of "1" to indicate that the home agent 122 is not available to service additional MSs and a vendor-value of "2" to indicate the home agent 122 is available to serve additional MSs. One embodiment of the method that the home agent 122 preferably performs to determine if the home agent 122 is not available is discussed below with reference to FIG. 8.